

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: FORMIN ESENBEL GIVES PRESS INTERVIEW ON CYPRUS

SUMMARY: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER, OUTLINING TURKISH POSITION ON CYPRUS IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT RESULTS OF POLITICAL TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE ENDORSED BY "GENEVA-TYPE" GIVE-PARTY CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT NICOSIA AIRPORT WOULD BE FIRST ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT 14 JANUARY MEETING FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS ON FAMAGUSTA. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON STRUCTURE OF FUTURE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT AND SAID THAT TURKS WERE WAITING FOR RESPONSE FROM UK GOVERNMENT CONCERNING TURKISH CYPRIOTS NOW ON SBA'S. END SUMMARY.

1. TURKISH FONMIN ESENBEL, IN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN CUMHURIYET NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED JANUARY 10, SAID THAT IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CYPRUS TALKS TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 14, REOPENING OF THE

NICOSIA AIRPORT TO AIR TRAFFIC WOULD BE DISCUSSED FIRST. HE NOTED THAT THE AIRPORT WOULD BE UNDER "JOINT AND EQUAL MANAGEMENT" AND POINTED OUT THAT EVEN FOLLOWING OPENING OF THE AIRPORT TURKISH MILITARY UNITS WOULD REMAIN IN PLACE. LATER, DISCUSSIONS ON FAMAGUSTA WOULD BE TAKEN UP. DECLARING THAT TURKEY SEES BENEFIT TO THE OPENING OF FAMAGUSTA PORT TO THE WORLD, ESENBEL SAID THAT IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PORT WOULD BE COMPLETED UNDER TURKISH ADMINISTRATION.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HEAD LIST OF THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. DESCRIBING THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS AS "SUI GENERIS," ESENBEL POINTED OUT THAT THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS DOES NOT PERMIT COMPARISON WITH THE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF THE US, SWITZERLAND OR SOVIET UNION. ESENBEL SAID TURKEY HAD OWNED CYPRUS FOR 350 YEARS. DURING THE FOLLOWING 150 YEARS THE GREEKS CAME AND INCREASED THEIR POPULATION. ESENBEL AVERED THAT THE PRESENT TURKS WERE A CONTINUATION OF THOSE WHO HAD ADMINISTERED THE ISLAND AT THE TIME OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE. NOTING THAT THROUGH BITTER EXPERIENCE THE TWO SIDES HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FORM A NATION, ESENBEL INDICATED THE MOST SOUND AND REALISTIC COURSE WAS "TO REALIZE THEIR EXISTENCE UNDER A SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE UMBRELLA, BUT LIVING SEPARATELY."

3. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ON HOW THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FORMED, ESENBEL SAID "THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT SINCE A STATE BASED ON TWO REGIONS IS TO BE FORMED AND SINCE WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE TURKISH REGION, WHAT POWERS WILL THE TURKISH REGION HAVE." HE SAID THE TURKISH COMMUNITY WOULD DETERMINE THE POWERS IT HAD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND THAT LATER THE POWERS TO BE GIVEN TO THE JOINT ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE ESTABLISHED ON THE CONDITION THAT THE TURKS COULD LIVE AND MOVE IN COMPLETE FREEDOM IN THEIR OWN REGION. THOSE POWERS NOT RESERVED TO THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION WOULD BELONG TO THE CENTRAL ORGAN. FOR EXAMPLE, MATTERS SUCH A TAX COLLECTION WOULD BE A CONCERN OF THE WHOLE ISLAND AND WOULD BE HANDLED BY THE JOINT ADMINISTRATION.

4. ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT RUMORS OF "A PACKAGE AGREEMENT
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BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY," ESENBEL SAID THAT A PACKAGE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE AND THAT, IN ANY CASE, TURKEY HAD NOT RECEIVED SUCH A PROPOSAL FROM GREECE, EVEN INDIRECTLY. HE SAID THERE WERE NO DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AND THE STAGE HAD NOT YET BEEN REACHED FOR A TETE-A-TETE MEETING WITH THE GREEKS. THIS WOULD OCCUR FOLLOWING THE DENKTASH/CLERIDES' TALKS. ESENBEL EMPHASIZED THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WAS THE CYPRUS QUESTION

FOLLOWING WHICH OTHER IMPORTANT PROBLEMS WOULD BE TAKEN UP.

5. TOWARD THE END OF THE INTERVIEW, ESENBEL SAID "LET ME REPEAT, POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH CYPRUS WILL, IN ANY CASE, COME BEFORE A GENEVA-TYPE FIVE-PARTY CONFERENCE." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "TURKEY'S STAND WITH RESPECT TO GUARANTEES IS KNOWN. GUARANTEES ARE IN EFFECT AND ARE VALID." HE SAID TURKEY BELIEVES THE FRAMEWORK SHOULD NOT BE EXPANDED AND SHOULD REMAIN BASICALLY THE SAME IN THE FUTURE.

6. CONCERNING TURKISH REFUGEES ON THE SBA'S, ESENBEL SAID HE IS WAITING FOR A REPLY TO HIS LETTER TO FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN REQUESTING THE RELEASE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO BE FOLLOWED BY RELEASE OF THE MEN. HE SAID HE HAD ALSO SUMMONED THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS FOR A DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT.
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